

VCASS MUSIC AUDITION INFORMATION 2021

Before you start your online application to audition, we recommend you watch our auditions checklist video prepared by one of the School Captains:

<https://vimeo.com/512780448/affe38ed69>

VCASS Auditions

All VCASS audition applications will be submitted as a video.

This video will be uploaded directly to our online application portal.

Subsequent Rounds

If needed, subsequent auditions/interviews will take place face to face online or face to face onsite at VCASS.

AUDITION APPLICATION PROCESS

1. **Watch the checklist video**
2. **Assemble all required PDF or JPEG documents, no bigger than 5MB**
 - Copy of Birth Certificate
 - Small photo (can be a jpeg)
 - Current VISA documents (if applicable)
 - Copy of Semester TWO report from previous year
 - Student Statement - Why would you like to attend VCASS
3. **Record one unedited video in MP4 format, no bigger than 400MB**
 - See the requirements outlined in this document below
 - Pausing a video between exercises is not considered as an edit

This video must include:

- A spoken introduction stating your name, current year level, stream you are applying for and a brief summary telling us about yourself
 - Specific illustrations/demonstrations of your skills in line with the audition requirements below
4. **Complete online application**
 5. **Upload your video into application**
 6. **Pay and submit your application**

TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR VIDEO

We expect most applicants will be filming in a studio setting, using whatever device they have at their disposal. Do the best with what you have and remember these tips:

- Present an introduction of yourself at the beginning – stating your name, year level, application number and chosen stream (brief one minute maximum)
- Film in a clear, well-lit space so we can see you
- Check the quality and or sound of the image prior to submission
- Do not record outside of a building e.g. a park or garden with additional noise
- You must be visible in the video at all times
- Your video should be filmed in one sitting and not edited (pausing the video is permitted)

CONTENT OF VIDEO

Video footage must contain:

- Introduction
- A short solo technical study or work of technical focus
- Improvisation applicants may present a transcription in place of the technical study
- Two favourite scales and one arpeggio
- Two contrasting repertoire works – either with a live accompaniment or unaccompanied

If the applicant plays a “second instrument” then you may include video of one work on this instrument (counted within the video- not a separate video of the second instrument).

INSTRUMENTAL PROFICIENCY FOR VIDEO

Applicants are not required to undertake prior music examinations.

However, the following serves as a guide:

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| Piano (classical), Violin, Cello | Entering Years 7/8: AMEB Grade 6 Entering Years 9/10: AMEB Grade 7 Entering Year 11: AMEB Grade 8 Entering Year 12: AMEB Associate Diploma |
| Other instruments including improvisation stream | It is advised that applicants have had several years of tuition by a suitably trained and qualified instrumental music teacher. |
| Voice | Whilst vocal training is not mandatory, it is advisable applicants have received some vocal training within a choir or private lessons. The policy of VCASS Music is that voice students will not enter years 7, 8 & 9 specifically as an improvisation student. If they are deemed to be a suitable candidate for VCASS, the early voice pathways are focused on voice building. |

MUSIC THEORY KNOWLEDGE

Whilst formal music theory tuition is not mandatory, however the following serves as a guide:

Year 7: AMEB Grade 1

Year 8: AMEB Grade 2

Year 9: AMEB Grade 3

Year 10: AMEB Grade 4

Years 11 – 12: AMEB Grade 5 or VCE Music Performance Units 1 & 2

Auditioning students may be required to sit a music theory and aural assessment as part of the audition process.

Whilst there is no expectation that an applicant is highly skilled on a second instrument, presentation of one work on an additional instrument may be appropriate.

ACCOMPANIMENT

Typically, applicants auditioning on piano, guitar, drums and percussion may not need an accompanist.

If your two performance pieces have accompaniment, we recommend you use an accompanist.

For a list of freelance accompanists refer to the vmta.vic.au website.

Recorded accompaniment is **not** permitted.

The following instruments have **specific audition requirements:**

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| <p>Voice</p> | <p>Vocalists must sing without a microphone. Recorded accompaniment is not permitted. All vocalists should select a work that displays your middle and upper register. It is important to sing without force.</p> <p><u>Non-Improvising Vocalists</u></p> <p>Entering Year 7-9: at least one song should be selected from any book from AMEB Grade 1-4 “Singing Series 2”, or ABRSM Songbook, books 3-5.</p> <p>Entering Year 10-12: at least one song should be selected from “26 Italian Songs and Arias: Authoritative Edition by Paton”, or a comparable song in Italian, French or German.</p> <p><u>Improvising Vocalists</u></p> <p>Should include one of the following jazz standards as one of your two contrasting works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swing - Autumn Leaves, All The Things You Are, In Walked Bud • Latin - St Thomas, Black Orpheus, Gentle Rain • Ballad - Alone Together, In a Sentimental Mood, God Bless the Child <p>They should also be prepared to improvise over a blues progression and a ii-V-I chord progression.</p> |
| <p>Piano - Classical</p> | <p>One work of your choice; One Classical work (c.1730-1820) One Study (from any period) or Baroque work (c.1600-1760)</p> |
| <p>Improvisation Applicants</p> | <p>Prepare one work of your own choosing. In addition prepare one contrasting well known jazz standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swing - Autumn Leaves, All The Things You Are, In Walked Bud • Latin - St Thomas, Black Orpheus, Gentle Rain • Ballad - Alone Together, In a Sentimental Mood, God Bless the Child <p>Effects pedals are not permitted.</p> |

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| Drum Kit | <p>Drummers must play with sticks and brushes and demonstrate a variety of feels and grooves including Latin, Swing, Ballad, Funk and Jazz Waltz.</p> <p>Technical work must include basic drum rudiments, plus one solo from the book “The All-American Drummer” by Charley Wilcoxon.</p> <p>In addition prepare two contrasting well known jazz standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swing - Autumn Leaves, All The Things You Are, In Walked Bud • Latin - St Thomas, Black Orpheus, Gentle Rain • Ballad - Alone Together, In a Sentimental Mood, God Bless the Child <p>Double kick pedals are not permitted.</p> |
| Percussion | <p>If invited to attend a follow up audition, Percussion applicants must email music@vcass.vic.edu.au to confirm which instruments, if any, you require us to provide at your audition (i.e. classical snare, marimba, vibraphone).</p> <p>You need to bring your own sticks and mallets.</p> |

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- After viewing your video and reading your application, the panel may request a follow-up audition/interview. This will be either at VCASS or online.
- Auditionees receive an email advising them of their outcome. If unsuccessful, you are most welcome to audition again in the future.
- The outcome of the audition is final and not subject to appeal.
- It is VCASS School Policy that we do not offer any feedback to applicants regarding their audition.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To view detailed information about the Music curriculum at VCASS, please visit the Music page on our website: [Music Handbook 2021](#)

General Enquiries: For any general enquiries call our office on 03 8644 8644